



## MODERN DOMESTIC ARCHITECTURE.

By ALFRED E. CORBETT [A.].

Read before the Manchester Society of Architects, 12th November 1903.

SO much has been written and said on the subject of domestic architecture that it is with considerable diffidence that I venture to add one more to the long list of studies of this most fascinating subject.

Most architects will agree, I think, that the undoubted advance of late years in the art of architecture has been more marked in domestic work than in any other branch. There are doubtless many reasons for this: one of the chief ones appears to me to be that the design of houses is more directly influenced than that of most buildings by the growing feeling that architecture is *building* before anything else; that while every architect should carefully study the historic styles, and must inevitably be influenced by them to a great extent, modern architecture must be founded more on sound and straightforward construction, and the suitable treatment of materials, than on the forms of the buildings erected to fulfil the requirements of some bygone century. Possibly this view of architecture—the craftsman's view—is less applicable to buildings of a more monumental type; but when applied by an artist to houses of moderate size it results in simple and suitable types of design which are eminently homely and lovable.

Taking this point of view we may usefully begin by considering certain details of construction and materials. Some of the constructive methods I shall mention are unusual, though not actually novel, and it would be very interesting if my mention of them should evoke a discussion as to their value as compared with the more usual methods.

A leading principle of modern hygiene is the avoidance of any inaccessible spaces where microbes or vermin may thrive without fear of disturbance. In nearly all houses there is room for great improvement in this direction, spaces being left under floor-boards, behind skirtings, in sash frames, &c., which are certain to contain dirt if nothing worse. This objection applies in some degree to the cavity in an external wall; but if the wall be well built there seems to be little probability of much harm ensuing, and there is no doubt that the non-conductivity of the air in the cavity makes the house warmer, and damp is excluded better; advantages which generally outweigh the less solid character of the construction. An air-brick may be put behind the kitchen range or other fireplace to ventilate the cavity, the

hot brickwork slightly drying and warming the incoming air. No special outlet is necessary. A cavity wall with two half-brick skins is too flimsy a construction for good work, except perhaps for cottages. In a 16-inch cavity wall it seems better on the whole to put the half-brick skin on the *outside*, though not usual in this district. The greater bulk of the wall is then kept dry, and the floors and roof bear on a solid 9-inch wall. The half-brick outer skin is necessarily built in stretching bond; but this does not seem to be a great drawback as regards appearance, and is certainly better than introducing snap headers for the sake of effect. Some form of wrought-iron tie is probably best for bonding the skins together.

I am indebted to Mr. Edgar Wood for the detail of a double-cavity wall, which appears to have some advantages (see fig. 1). It is really three half-brick walls thoroughly bonded together. Brick headers give more stiffness to a wall than iron ties, but cannot be used in a single-cavity wall unless vitrified, or the ends dipped in tar, as they admit damp. Here, if the damp should get through the headers, it is stopped by the inner cavity; and to get through the wall it would have to percolate through at least 21 inches of brickwork in a zigzag direction, or 30 inches if an additional stretcher be inserted between the headers. This wall is probably warmer than a single-cavity wall owing to the increased temperature and dryness of the air in the inner cavity.

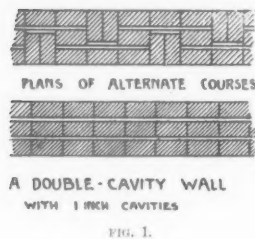


FIG. 1.

Concrete walls are little used, but in Mr. Sutcliffe's book on House Construction there is a description of an interesting wall of concrete between brick skins, something like the old Roman brick-faced concrete. Half-brick walls are built 6 inches apart, and concrete is run in between them, about two headers to the square yard being inserted to bond into the concrete. I should presume that only about three courses in height could be built at once to avoid the pressure of concrete bulging the green brickwork. By this method the trouble and cost of wood centering is saved, and it is said that in exposed situations in Wales this wall is perfectly water-tight. It is far stronger than a cavity wall, and avoids the somewhat insanitary hollow space. Stone facing could be used in place of brick.

The choice of facing bricks is a most important matter: smooth, hard, pressed, machine-made bricks are utterly unsympathetic; they have no texture, no variety of surface; generally hand-made bricks form a far more beautiful wall, especially if they have some variety of colour. Evenness of colour should never be insisted on. Sometimes with bricks from the same kiln a slight diaper pattern can be made by picking out greyer or redder bricks, or they may be used promiscuously. Thin bricks, 2 inches or  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches thick, with thick joints of grey mortar, make an excellent wall.

Perhaps the best way to make a wall weatherproof is to render it with Portland cement, left plain or rough-cast, either having a very satisfactory appearance. The surface may be enriched with well-modelled ornament of any richness desired. I have seen cottages effectively decorated with simple patterns made by pressing the bowl of a spoon into the wet cement surface, and other equally simple methods may be used.

A good effect, though less durable, can be got more cheaply by giving a brick wall two or three good coats of limewhite mixed with Russian tallow or cow-dung to prevent it from washing off too quickly (as in fig. 6).

Tile-hanging is a very effective protection against weather. The best method of fixing is to nail to Wright's, or other,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch fixing blocks, built in alternately with ordinary brick courses to give a  $4\frac{1}{2}$ -inch gauge. For nailing into the brick joints one has to use brick-on-

edge to get the required  $4\frac{1}{2}$ -inch gauge. The system sometimes adopted for this purpose of building a cavity wall with brick-on-edge outer skin and half-brick inner skin is very flimsy construction; it is much better to build a solid 9-inch wall of brick-on-edge throughout, as the cavity is unnecessary when protected by tile-hanging.

A very beautiful wall-covering can be made with oak or elm weather-boarding or with oak shingles, though perhaps these hardly give the impression of durability, which is so desirable in a building.

Speaking in Lancashire, and within easy reach of Cheshire, about varieties of walling, one naturally refers to half-timber work. The fine old half-timber halls are genuine, straightforward construction, and are very picturesque, leading many architects to introduce half-timber in their new buildings. We must, however, recognise that the bye-laws insist on a 9-inch brick wall behind the half-timber casing, and in these circumstances it seems to be more honest and better construction to show the brick wall than to hide it behind a useless and more or less perishable wood-and-plaster casing.

The walling of, for example, Mr. Prior's cottage at Exmouth is an interesting example of a discriminating mixture of materials, which, when well done, gives wonderful texture and interest to a wall. The other materials of this cottage are worthy of note, *e.g.* the elm weather-boarding and the thatched roof. Thatch is admirable in appearance, and is warm in winter and cool in summer; but the objections to it, especially the risk of fire, are too great to make it a practical roofing material in most cases.

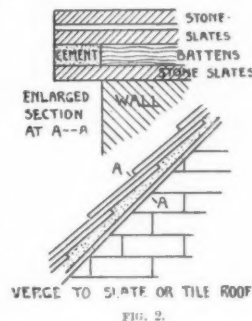
Perhaps the most durable and beautiful roofing material is stone slating, of which a very good quality comes from Brighouse, in Yorkshire. The broken colour, the great thickness, and the delightful surface texture of good stone slates produce a most charming roof. The ridge should be sawn out of solid stone, the only possible alternative being a broad lead ridge. The actual weight of stone slates is something like three times that of good ordinary slates; but there is no need to increase the strength of roof timbers in this proportion; that most important factor, wind pressure, is the same in each case; and also the roof boarding and battens; so that the total pressure on the roof timbers in a roof of 45 degrees pitch is only about 30 per cent. more in a stone-slatted roof than in a roof with ordinary slates, or about 10 per cent. more than in a tiled roof.

Nearly as good a roof—many architects would say quite as good—can be made with rough green slates, such as Westmorlands; the rougher and smaller, in reason, the better they are in appearance. With green slating it is much better, as a rule, to avoid red tile ridges: they form too violent a contrast of colour. Solid stone ridges are excellent; lead is good; and I have seen a greyish-purple half-round ridge tile used satisfactorily.

Some of the grey or purple Welsh slates, though impossible over red brick walls, look quite satisfactory with whitewashed or rough-cast walls, especially if small, thick, rough slates be chosen.

Tiles form an admirable roof if they have a satisfactory texture. Often they are too smooth and shiny, or, as Mr. Ernest Newton once said, "like a piece of boiler plate painted pink!" Good hand-made tiles can often be had of excellent colour and texture. For the ridge a plain half-round tile is the best, and the hips may either have the same or may have the ordinary hip tiles coursing in with the other tiles. Generally any ridge finial is better omitted.

A good verge for either tiled or slated roofs is shown in fig. 2; a single course of slates is bedded solid on the top of the gable wall, and the space between these and the roofing



slates, equal to thickness of battens, is pointed up in cement, giving a strong thick verge with a neat soffit. Tilting the verge up an inch or so improves the appearance and prevents water from dripping on to the wall.

To save cost of lead in cheap work cement flashings are sometimes used. The slates and boarding should bed solid on a ledge of brickwork (fig. 3) to prevent the sagging of rafters from cracking the cement.

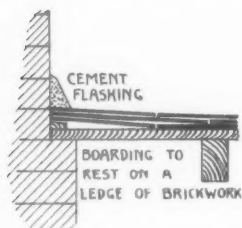


FIG. 3.

It is probably in the construction of floors that there is most room for improvement in ordinary practice, the usual joisted floor being eminently combustible, and providing a large inaccessible space for dirt between ceiling and boards.

For the ground floor a solid concrete floor resting on the ground is rather cold, and it would seem better to retain the usual space between ground and floor. I would suggest a floor of coke-breeze concrete, 5 inches thick, resting on sleeper walls 6 feet apart or less: with this moderate span steelwork could safely be omitted. Wooden centering would be troublesome, but thin corrugated iron resting on the sleeper walls has been suggested by Mr. Ralph Nevill as being amply strong and cheap; before it eventually rusted away the concrete would have matured to its full strength. Ordinary floor boards can be nailed into the coke breeze concrete direct. The usual layer of concrete over the surface of ground could be safely omitted, with adequate ventilation to disperse the ground air, so that the cost should hardly exceed that of an ordinary joisted floor with layer of concrete under.

It is probably not quite so easy to get a good and cheap solid concrete construction for the upper floors. The spans are greater, and the floors would probably have a more intense heat to resist in case of fire. The invaluable record of "Facts on Fire Prevention," issued by the British Fire Prevention Committee, indicates that coke-breeze concrete stands a fire better than ordinary ballast concrete, not being so liable to disintegrate and collapse; and that its resisting power is greatly increased when expanded metal lathing is embedded in the under side. Small-meshed metal lathing, if properly supported, serves as centering, avoiding the cost of wooden centering, affords an excellent key for plastering, and considerably increases the strength. Fig. 4 shows a suggestion for a floor of coke-breeze concrete (six to one), with

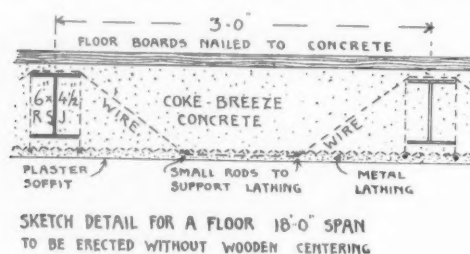


FIG. 4.

steel joists 3 feet apart and metal lathing hung beneath them by wires; support for the lathing is afforded at two intermediate points by wires laced over the tops of joists and under rods beneath the lathing, to resist the strain caused by stamping down the concrete. I have no experience of the cost of such a floor, but it appears to be a comparatively cheap construction.

The advantages of solid concrete floors are resistance to fire, elimination of inaccessible spaces, and durability from the avoidance of rot. The first two of these may be secured at slightly less cost by a solid wooden floor composed of 7 inches by 2½ inches fir-joists placed side by side and spiked together to distribute the load. A depth of 7 inches suffices for a span of 21 feet. If the floor-boards run parallel with the joists the strength is slightly increased. The Fire Prevention Committee's tests show that this floor may be thoroughly relied on for resistance to fire.

A still cheaper construction, giving some resistance to fire, has wood beams, laid 8 feet



centre to centre, supporting a  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inch plank floor, on which the floor boards are nailed. The underside may be lathed and plastered, or may be wrought and exposed.

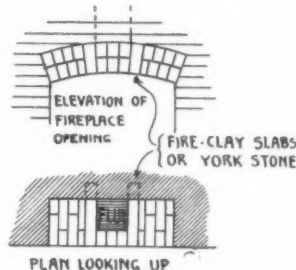
In all cases the resistance to fire is increased by the use of a fireproof plaster.

The objections to joisted floors apply equally to lath-and-plastered partitions. Wire or metal lathing in place of wood laths increases the resistance to fire somewhat, but it is better to have a solid construction, either a half-brick wall, a wall of brick-on-edge in cement, or one of the many slab or solid plaster partitions.

In the staircase resistance to fire is of the greatest value, with a view to providing escape from the upper floors. Treads and strings 2 inches thick of fir, or preferably of oak or teak, will resist a considerable fire, especially with a soffit of metal lathing and fire-resisting plaster.

I have seen a beautiful staircase by Messrs. Ernest George and Peto, made with solid oak steps, which would be absolutely reliable. Stone is untrustworthy in a fire, besides not being so homely in appearance as wood.

Smoking chimneys are sometimes so difficult to remedy that every care should be taken to ensure a good draught. The chief point is to keep the flues warm; put them in internal walls if possible, and have 9 inches of brickwork round them. In external walls, a flue-pipe helps to retain the heat, besides preventing loss of draught by leakage. Eddies from high roofs are fruitful causes of down draught, and stacks must be carried well above the nearest ridge. Flues 9 inches by 9 inches draw better than larger ones, and are enough for all fires except perhaps the kitchen range. The ordinary gathering of brickwork over a fireplace opening gives too great a volume of air over the fire: it is better to make the arch extend the full depth of fireplace (fig. 5), supporting the arch at sides of flue with a strip of York stone, or slab of fire-clay. There are patent fire-clay key-blocks which are perhaps still more effectual, having a wider opening at the bottom.



Without touching on other details of lighting, it may be worth while to repeat, from *Leaning's Specifications*, the suggested scale of electric lights required in ordinary cases.

Bedrooms	.	.	.	.	1 c.p. to each 6 square feet.
Dining-room	.	.	.	.	1 " " 4 " "
Drawing-room	.	.	.	.	1 " " 3 " "

The usual incandescent lamp is of 16 c.p., so that a dining-room, 25 feet by 18 feet, would require seven lamps. Frosted glass globes are advisable, as, although they actually obstruct about 10 per cent. of light, they appear to give more light, the less concentrated light not causing the pupil of the eye to contract so much.

My excuse for enlarging so upon the constructive side of our subject must be the conviction that we cannot get real living architecture unless we base it firmly on practical considerations. Of course we need a great deal more than utilitarianism; we need the most inspired imagination, the highest artistic gifts, to create work which shall give a thrill of pleasure to a brother artist; but I would reiterate that the basis must be the best possible solution of the practical requirements, with the most fitting treatment of the materials.

The extremely fascinating subject of the *planning* of houses has been most admirably treated by Professor Kerr in *The English Gentleman's House* and by Mr. J. J. Stevenson in *House Architecture*, but the cardinal principles are ignored in so many plans that I may perhaps be excused a brief survey of some of them, having special reference to rather

small houses, with the proviso that special circumstances may upset any one of these rules sometimes.

The question of prospect from the windows can hardly be profitably considered in the abstract, but should be most earnestly studied on the site before designing a house, with the general object of giving to each sitting-room a beautiful prospect, and one which shall be so lit up by the sun as to look its best at the time the room is most used.



Aspect has to be considered chiefly with regard to the admission of sunshine. An ordinary window facing due south admits a gleam of sunshine at about 7.30 A.M., and loses the sun about 4.30 P.M., *i.e.* it admits sunshine for about nine hours. An east window has its last ray of sunshine about 10.30 A.M.

The dining-room, used in a small house for all meals and often also as a sitting-room, should face south-east or south, getting sunshine until 1.30 or 4.30 P.M. A dining-room facing west would not only be uncomfortably hot for dinner, but the almost level rays of the evening sun would inconveniently dazzle the diners, who could not well move about to avoid the glare. The steeper angle of midday sunshine through a south window prevents it from reaching people's eyes while at table.

The drawing-room, being chiefly used in the

afternoon and evening, should have a south or west aspect, or preferably both, so as to get two views from its windows. The evening sun is no inconvenience here, as the occupants can move their positions to avoid it. The kitchen and larders should look north, though east is permissible. Obviously these rooms should avoid the sun's heat as much as possible.



FIG. 6.

In actual planning it is rarely possible to get every room arranged perfectly, but I will notice a few points which may assist in forming an ideal to aim at in each case.

In sitting-rooms the door is generally best at the further end of the wall at right angles to the wall containing fireplace. In all rooms the hinges of the door should be on side nearest fireplace. Exceptions, of course, occur to every rule.

Taking some of the rooms individually, the dining-room, if chiefly used for meals, is perhaps best lighted by a big window, or pair of windows, at one end, ensuring a side light to all the diners, with a smaller window near the other end to give the carver sufficient light. On the other hand, for its use as a sitting-room it is often pleasant to have windows along the side of the room (see fig. 7). One cannot dogmatise as to which is better; each case must be decided on its merits. The serving door should be close to sideboard, and both doors may well be at one end of the room, leaving the other end free from doors and possible draughts. A serving-hatch direct to the dining-room should not be used: it is detrimental to privacy, and requires two servants to work it properly.

In the drawing-room the value of a fine view from the windows is greatest, and this should be obtained, if possible, even at the sacrifice, in exceptional cases, of a sunny aspect, though no effort should be spared to get both aspect and prospect right.

It is often desirable to connect the drawing-room with the morning-room or library by means of folding or sliding doors to make a larger room on special occasions. Folding doors, though they take up a lot of room, are to be preferred on sanitary grounds, as it is difficult to facilitate the cleaning-out of the hollow space required to receive sliding doors. The inconvenient transmission of sound through folding doors may in some cases be overcome by putting a small ante-room between the two rooms: this could be used as a passage to the garden (as in fig. 7).

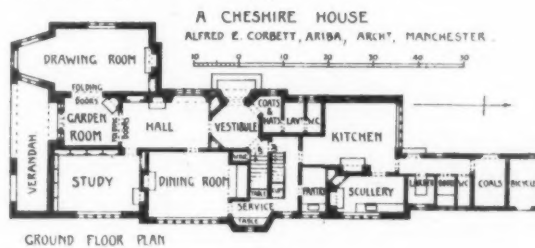
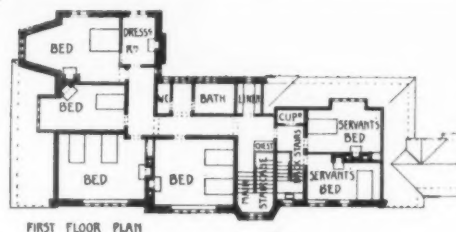
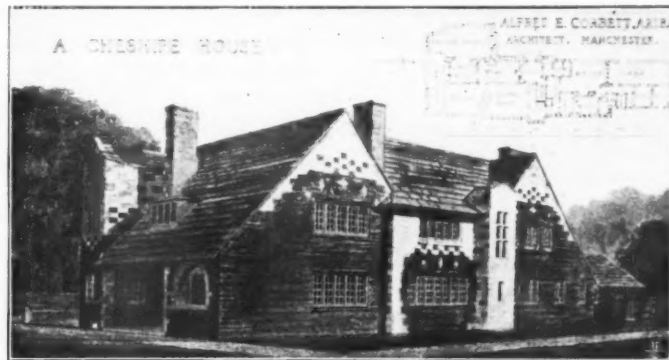


FIG. 7.

The third sitting-room may be a study or library, and should have a good place for a writing-table with a left-front light, as shown in Professor Kerr's study plan.

Instead of having three rather cramped sitting-rooms there is a growing tendency in small houses to have one large hall or living room, with plenty of space to move about in, and a small room to receive visitors in, &c. This is an admirable arrangement for an informal seaside or country house. In an interesting small house by Mr. Ernest Newton the large hall, the dining-room, and a small drawing-room are all joined together by wide folding doors. This system of throwing several rooms into one is widely adopted in America, where the general use of powerful heating apparatus appears to encourage an open system of planning.

The ground floor w.c. should be separate, and entered through the lavatory. The lavatory may serve as hat and coat room, but a separate room for hats &c. has the advantage of being accessible while the lavatory is being used.

The kitchen range should be lighted from the left to throw light on to the range without obstruction by the cook's right arm: a right-hand light is not so bad as light from the opposite side of the kitchen, which is intercepted by the cook's body. In some cases a lantern light can be provided throwing light down on to the range, and also providing excellent top ventilation. As the kitchen is generally the servants' sitting-room, it is pleasant to have a boarded floor to most of its area, but there should be a broad tiled or cemented area at the fireplace side leading to the scullery, this being the part most likely to get dirty. The scullery doorway should be as close to the range as possible; the actual door may sometimes be omitted with advantage, leaving a mere opening. It is a mistake to cramp the size of kitchen; in some cases it may usefully be as big as the dining-room or very little less.

Great care must be taken to cut off the kitchen from the rest of the house by a ventilated lobby to prevent the smell of cooking from permeating the house. This may be effected by a serving lobby, giving access from kitchen to dining-room and to hall (or if it give access to the front door without passing through the hall so much the better; see fig. 7), or in small plans the pantry may be effectively used in the same way.

In the scullery a small range or gas-stove is useful. Sometimes the scullery develops into a back kitchen, with a sink, where much of the cooking and all the rougher work can be done, the kitchen then becoming a servants' sitting-room, where some cooking is done occasionally.

The larder must not open direct from the kitchen, the hot air being injurious: it may open from the scullery, but is best approached from a ventilated passage or from the pantry.

There are many opinions as to the best sink for washing glasses &c. in the pantry: a good one is made of 2-inch teak, put together with red lead and brass screws without any lead lining. As the butler or parlourmaid will attend to the front door the pantry should be near it, and its window may usefully overlook the approach.

In bedrooms draughts would probably pass from either door or window to fireplace, and the bed should be clear from them. It is generally advised that the window should be on the left side of the bed, especially where the aspect is east, to avoid the morning sun direct in the sleeper's eyes; but I think there is no great objection to a window at the foot of the bed, light from the right side being worst for most people. In America no bedroom is complete without a large cupboard, often four or five feet square; and I think most of our clients' wives would welcome more cupboards, even though the room had to be proportionately reduced in size.

American plans often contain valuable suggestions, as may be seen in an article by Mr. A. N. Paterson in the R.I.B.A. JOURNAL, Vol. V. [1898], No. 12. One of the plans there illustrated has eleven bedrooms and five bathrooms. Few English clients would agree to such an ample provision, but two bathrooms in a house are greatly to be desired in place of

the usual one. A lead safe under a bath is very unsightly : it is much better to provide a tile or mosaic surface to a concrete floor.

The combination of the various elements of a plan to form an organic whole is a most difficult matter : perfection is rarely possible, and one has to weigh carefully the relative merits of various arrangements to secure the best possible compromise. One has to guard against fixed ideas ; often the plan first thought of embodies some favourite arrangement which one regards as unalterable, or as incapable of improvement ; if alternative schemes be worked out, entirely abandoning this pet device, other possibilities will develop, and very possibly the plan as a whole may gain.

Though the plan is naturally put on paper first, the entire building must grow in the designer's mind as a whole, in plan, elevation, and section, so far as its broad characteristics are concerned ; and particular attention must be paid to the roof, arranging the plan so that it can be roofed naturally and beautifully. The plan should be simple and straightforward, with no waste of space in passages, though some amplitude in the hall and staircase is well worth its cost in giving dignity and comfort.

In designing the elevations the factor of materials is of the greatest importance : the scheme must be mentally realised as a combination of materials of certain colours and textures, not merely as a pleasing arrangement of lines on paper. Local



FIG. 8.—DANNEY ROYD, HUDDERSFIELD. MR. EDGAR WOOD, ARCHITECT.

materials generally take their place best as part of the landscape, but the proper preference for them should not prevent the use of *better* materials from elsewhere.

In speaking of materials the subject of terra-cotta is a rather thorny one : it may be a prejudice, but my own feeling is that for country houses terra-cotta should never be used, *i.e.* terra-cotta in the ordinary sense of the term. On the other hand moulded brick may be a useful material, if treated as brick, in small pieces, not in big blocks. I may cite as an example a house by Mr. Lutyens, where the window jambs are of moulded brick, but the transome and head, for which a material in long lengths is preferable, are of stone ; or another window where the bearing part of the head is of stone surmounted by a course of moulded brick on edge, the mitres at angles being worked in stone, thus utilising the good qualities of both materials.

\* \* In illustration of the paper some of the domestic work of the following architects was illustrated by over fifty lantern-slides of plans and views :—Messrs. Balfour and Turner, John Belcher, Reginald Blomfield, Detmar Blow, Guy Dawber, Horace Field, Ernest George and Peto, Hare, Lethaby, Lorimer, Lutyens, Macartney, Ernest Newton, Prior, Ricardo, Norman Shaw, Leonard Stokes, Troup, Allan F. Vigers, Voysey, Edgar Wood, Thos. and Percy Worthington.





9, CONDUIT STREET, LONDON, W., 9th Jan. 1904.

## CHRONICLE.

### Southwark Bridge.

The following correspondence has passed between the Council of the Institute and the Corporation of the City of London:—

1st December 1903.

SIR,—The Council of the Royal Institute of British Architects, having learned that it has been decided to invite competitive designs for the rebuilding of Southwark Bridge, are most anxious that every encouragement should be afforded to competitors to give the fullest consideration to the architectural quality of the bridge as well as to its engineering necessities. To this end the Council desire to press upon the Corporation the appointment of an eminent architect in association with an eminent engineer, the two to act in collaboration as assessors in the competition, and that it be made a condition that an architect and an engineer should be associated in the execution of the work.

We are to point out that such a practice obtains largely in France, and that the great majority of the bridges in the City of Paris are admired for their suitability of purpose and artistic qualities, and reflect credit upon the city and its method of obtaining these results.

The Council are confident that if a similar practice were adopted for the designs of bridges over the Thames a satisfactory result would be obtained and one that would be regarded with favour by all who have the interests of this important matter at heart.

We are, Sir, your obedient servants,  
ALEXANDER GRAHAM,  
Hon. Secretary.  
W. J. LOCKE,  
Secretary.

The Town Clerk, Guildhall.

Guildhall, E.C., 22nd December 1903.

SIR,—I have to inform you that the letter of the Council of the Royal Institute of British Architects relative to the reconstruction of Southwark Bridge has been considered by the Bridge House Estates Committee, and they desire me to acquaint you that in proceeding with the matter

they are acting in consultation with the President of your Institute.—I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,  
The Secretary R.I.B.A. JAMES BELL.

### The Architects' Registration Question.

The nature of the business on the paper for last Monday attracted a very full attendance, the Meeting being strictly confined to members. Most of the Presidents of the Allied Societies were present, even from such distant parts as Dublin and Glasgow. There was a good sprinkling, too, of ordinary members from the provinces. The President, before coming to the main business of the evening, took occasion to address a few words of welcome to the country members, and expressed the hope that their London brethren would have many further opportunities of meeting them in that room.

Notice of their intention to submit to the Meeting certain motions had been duly lodged in accordance with By-law 56 by Messrs. G. A. T. Middleton [A.]; Butler Wilson [F.], President of the Leeds and Yorkshire Architectural Society; J. W. Beaumont [F.], President of the Manchester Society of Architects; John Woolfall [F.], President of the Liverpool Architectural Society; Edgar G. C. Down [A.], on behalf of the Cardiff, South Wales, and Monmouthshire Architects' Society; and Herbert Davis [F.], on behalf of the York Architectural Society. The motions were as follows:—

1. That this Institute is in favour of the general principle of the compulsory examination and registration of architects.
2. That a Committee be appointed to consider what steps should be taken to give effect to this principle, and to report thereon to a Special General Meeting before the opening of Parliament.
3. To nominate this Committee.

THE PRESIDENT, after the formal business was concluded, said he had one or two letters of regret for non-attendance. One from Mr. Gotch; one from Mr. Harold Hughes of Bangor, who said he had received a printed letter from the President of the Leeds and Yorkshire Society, asking if he was in favour of statutory registration of architects. He now wrote: "From the point of view of a provincial architect, I feel strongly adverse to the movement. Registration would only give to a number of incompetent architects a position they neither have nor deserve." Mr. John Bilson, of Hull, wrote that he was extremely sorry he could not attend the Institute Meeting to vote against registration, and regretted it the more, "because," he says, "there appears to be a prevalent opinion that provincial architects are more generally in favour of these registration proposals than I believe to be actually the case." Mr. Hadfield, who was also strongly against statutory registration, had written his regret at not being able to come. Sir William Emerson, whose name had been rather largely

circularised in connection with this matter, and who had been quoted as if in favour of such registration, wrote: "I am quite against it, and feel that the best registration is becoming a member of the Royal Institute of British Architects." There had been the same misapprehension with regard to Mr. John Slater; but Mr. Slater was present, and he hoped would speak for himself.

THE PRESIDENT having called on Mr. G. A. T. Middleton [A.] as being first on the notice-paper, Mr. Middleton stated that he was giving way to Mr. Butler Wilson [F.].

MR. BUTLER WILSON said that he proposed, if permitted, to drop the first and to propose the second motion with a little amendment. As President of the Leeds and Yorkshire Architectural Society he begged therefore to move, "That a committee, consisting of the Council of the Royal Institute of British Architects and representatives of the Allied Societies, be appointed to consider what steps shall be taken to give effect to the principle of registration, and to report thereon to a Special General Meeting."

THE PRESIDENT pointed out that this motion differed from any of those on the notice-paper, and ruled that it was not competent to bring it forward except as an amendment to those motions. After some discussion it was arranged that Mr. Middleton should move the first resolution—viz. "That this Institute is in favour of the general principle of the compulsory examination and registration of architects"—and that Mr. Butler Wilson should then bring forward his proposition as an amendment. This having been done,—

MR. BUTLER WILSON said he did not propose to advance any arguments in favour of registration, nor to attempt to snatch a few wavering votes by any persuasive eloquence. Nor was it his intention to take up the time of the Meeting by a lengthy dissertation relative to the present position of the profession; the existing educational provisions; the significance of legal registration; the educational results of registration; the enhanced position of the profession; the disciplinary results which would follow; the higher mental capacity of those entering the profession; the supposed art objections; the impossibility of voluntary efforts achieving equivalent results; the prospect of an Act being obtained; the importance of the Institute taking the lead before it was too late; the benefits to architecture. The time for the discussion of registration as a principle was past. They knew almost by heart all the arguments which had been advanced for and against. The President himself had said in his Address, "These arguments appear to me to remain much the same to-day, on both sides, as they were in 1889." If the opponents of registration were sincere, they must equally have given careful consideration to and made up their minds on this question, so that anything he might say in favour would not affect their decision. They would be as little

interested in listening to his views as he should be in hearing theirs. If the open mind had not been able to come to a decision by means of the mass of argument and discussion which had been going on since the year 1854, it was absurd to think that a serious conclusion could be arrived at during the short time the meeting would occupy. In those circumstances he would respectfully ask that those opposed to the motions would spare the Meeting the infliction of a wearisome reiteration of well-worn views. If his request were disregarded he might, as mover of the motion, take advantage of his right of reply before any vote was taken either upon his motion or upon any amendment. There were, however, as opposed to familiar theories, some very substantial facts upon which he should be deeply interested to learn their views: facts, he thought, which might with much more profit engage their attention, and which he did not see that they could ignore. He reminded the Meeting that it was at the express request of the Institute that the Allied Societies obtained the opinion of their members regarding registration. That request, he assumed, was not an idle, but a serious request. What had been the reply? There were seventeen Allied Societies in the United Kingdom. Fourteen of those had by special resolution declared in favour of registration. That was a circumstance which might well form a subject for discussion. Those fourteen Societies were at present bound together by a common desire. Whether a refusal would but bind them closer together remained to be seen. He had received many letters with regard to the question of registration, and he would quote shortly from two. A Fellow of the Institute, Mr. Leslie Ower, practising in Dundee, wrote that he thought "the time for debating the question on its merits is past; now the closure should be applied and the vote taken to show how parties stand. Should the Institute maintain as heretofore the position of determined obstruction, I for one am willing to join with the other provincial members in cutting the membership *en masse*." The Hon. Secretary of the Northern Architectural Association wrote as follows: "A few weeks ago I was again asked to write to the Royal Institute of British Architects to say that if some steps were not taken soon we shall be unable to retain the opinion that the Institute should take the lead." He would ask the Institute seriously to consider and realise what this combined verdict of the fourteen Allied Societies meant. There had been an attempt to discount the verdict of one Allied Society by a statement that some one hundred of its members abstained from voting, and it was remarked how much they were entitled to respect for declining to come to a hasty decision upon a question which so far had only exercised the minds of the profession for the short space of half a century! One might just as well doubt the

right of the Government of this country to hold power when so large a proportion of the enfranchised abstained from voting. Had that portion of the community ever been applauded or held up to the respect of its fellows? He would come nearer home and ask what proportion of the Institute abstained from voting; for following that line of reasoning the decisions of the Institute had never expressed the wishes of its members. Did the Institute respect those of its members whose participation in its conduct was confined to the payment of their subscriptions? He could imagine certain circumstances—he did not say they existed—under which members who would pay their subscriptions and remain quiescent in some remote corner of the provinces would engender in certain minds not only unbounded respect but absolute affection. This species of respect was easily analysed and assayed. But those who were interested and earnest were, he ventured to think, entitled to what little respect there might be remaining after it had been showered upon the indifferent. To request the Allied Societies to give their verdict, and when, by special resolution, they had done so to turn round and attempt to belittle and almost to question the value of their formal and constitutional actions, would be a proceeding which, if it were indulged in, he would leave others to characterise. There were present that evening presidents or representatives of some twelve Allied Societies, with their honorary secretaries and members supporting them, and amongst them were men whose work they admired and whose judgment they respected. They had journeyed in the aggregate some thousands of miles to attend this meeting, and it might be relied upon that they had not incurred the attendant trouble and expense either to have their constitutional actions discounted or to be wearied by threadbare objections to registration. They had come to reiterate their regular and formal decisions, and to carry back to their respective Societies the answer that would be given to them by the Institute.—The speaker concluded by moving the amendment in the terms above set out.

Mr. G. C. ASHLIN, R.H.A., President of the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland, said that after the exhaustive speech the proposer had made he felt inclined merely to second the amendment formally; but there were one or two remarks that he would make before doing so. In the first place he wished to explain that the prominent ideas in their minds in approaching this question were, first of all, that they were supporting a measure that they believed to be for the benefit of Art in the abstract and of the majority of the practising members of the profession; the second was that they, members of the Institute of Ireland—and he was speaking for that Institute—were thoroughly loyal to the R.I.B.A. They fully realised that no successful scheme of Regis-

tration would be carried out unless the vast majority of the profession, of the Institute and the other representative Societies of the profession, were at one. Their hope, therefore, was that if they found that on a *plébiscite* the majority of the practising members of the profession were against them the remedy they looked for was to try to convert that majority by argument into a minority, so that as the ultimate result an overwhelming majority might be obtained. The question had been so fully debated, not only in this room on a former occasion, but in the Presidential Addresses, that he felt he ought not to detain the Meeting, but begged formally to second the amendment.

Mr. J. W. BEAUMONT said that, as President of the Manchester Society of Architects, he wished to support Mr. Butler Wilson's amendment. The Manchester Society of Architects some time ago passed a Resolution in favour of registration if it were taken up by the R.I.B.A. In August last, in order that he might get information for his Presidential Address, he wrote to all the Secretaries of the Allied Societies asking if they would give him information as to whether they had considered and passed any Resolutions upon the circular sent out by the R.I.B.A. Council, or on a Memorandum *re* a Statutory Diploma for Architects which was sent round to the Allied Societies who were asked to give their opinion about it. He received at that time twelve replies from Secretaries of the Allied Societies. Six of them said that their Societies had passed Resolutions in favour of Registration; one Society had not recently discussed the matter, but formerly were much of the opinion of the R.I.B.A. Council; two Societies were divided in opinion; and the remaining three had not discussed the question at all. Since that time he had received communications which led him to the conclusion that, out of the sixteen Allied Societies which had been approached on the subject, thirteen or fourteen—he thought fourteen—had passed Resolutions in favour of Registration. He thought, therefore, that the Council must take into careful consideration the Resolutions passed by the Allied Societies. The Provincial Societies did not, of course, consider that registration would do any good to the present generation of architects; it was not for that that they were trying, but for future generations. The principal point was that of education and compulsory examination. There was no doubt that the obligatory examinations of the R.I.B.A. had been a magnificent thing for the profession, but there was a certain failure in them. Many students entered for and passed the Preliminary and the Intermediate Examinations, but did not appear at all for the Final, which was the principal examination to test whether a man was qualified for the profession or not; and yet these students went on and practised as architects. Under

Registration, however, every architect would be bound to pass the examinations before he could call himself or be dubbed "architect." Surely that was something—it was a title for their students to look forward to. At present, whether it was want of enthusiasm on the part of students, or that they felt an indifference on the subject, they knew that the fact of not passing the R.I.B.A. examinations was no bar to their practising as architects; and that was probably the case with many of the students who failed to come up for the Final Examination. The President had mentioned in his Opening Address that it would be difficult to know whom to include or whom to exclude in the first Registration. His (the speaker's) feeling was that they must be large-minded in the matter. It was no good weeding out names and getting a big opposition against them. If Registration was to be carried, many persons would have to be admitted into their ranks whom probably they should not admit otherwise; but it must be remembered that that was only for a short time—only for the man's lifetime. If the Registration measure had been passed twenty years ago, he believed there would have been very few architects practising in the present day who had not passed all the compulsory examinations. The question, too, was not one only in connection with the R.I.B.A. and its Allied Societies; there were hundreds of architects practising throughout the kingdom who were not members either of the Institute or of the Allied Societies, and those ought to be taken into consideration as well. The information they had got together showed, to his mind certainly, that there was a very large majority, in the provinces especially, in favour of Registration. Whether there would be a majority among members of the R.I.B.A. could be ascertained only by ballot. It would, however, scarcely do for the R.I.B.A. Council to sit still and say, "We do not consider that Registration is good for the profession." If there was this majority amongst the architects of the country, the matter ought to be inquired into by the Council and dealt with by them.

Mr. J. MACVICAR ANDERSON, F.R.S.E., *Past President*, said he had come prepared to deal with the original motion which was printed and circulated, and he had intended to move as an amendment "That the matter be referred to the Council of the Royal Institute of British Architects." Mr. Butler Wilson's amendment he could not possibly accept, because it seemed to him to pre-judge the whole case. The words of that amendment were: "That a committee, consisting of the Council of the Royal Institute of British Architects and representatives of the Allied Societies, be appointed to consider what steps should be taken to give effect to the principle of registration, and to report thereon to a Special General Meeting." That was giving away the whole case. According to that the Committee would have in-

structions to consider what steps were to be taken to give effect to Registration; in other words this would be admitting the whole principle of Registration. As he ventured to take a totally different view and to dissent from all that had been said by the gentlemen who had spoken in favour of the principle of Registration, he could not possibly accept the words of that amendment. If the words "what steps should be taken to give effect" were omitted, and the President and Council were willing to accept it, he should be willing to move as an amendment, "That a committee, consisting of the Council of the Royal Institute of British Architects, representatives of the Royal Institute of British Architects, and representatives of the Allied Societies, be appointed to consider the principle of Registration, and to report thereon to a Special General Meeting."

THE PRESIDENT: Will that meet your views, Mr. Butler Wilson?

Mr. BUTLER WILSON: It will, Sir.

Mr. MACVICAR ANDERSON: Then I venture to move that, Sir, in place of the amendment that has been put before us.—Mr. Macvicar Anderson went on to say that he considered that Registration would be the most fatal thing that the profession or the Institute could adopt, and ruinous in the extreme, for two reasons, to mention nothing else. First of all, the profession would be swamped with a mass of men admittedly unqualified and the very people the promoters of Registration professed their desire to get rid of by their Bill. Secondly, their action would inevitably create a split in the profession of architecture. His own course was perfectly clear—he knew what he would do if Registration were adopted by the Institute, and he believed a very large number of architects in better positions than himself would take the same course. Were these things to be desired in the interests of architecture?

Mr. H. T. HARE [F.], President of the Architectural Association (London), seconded Mr. Anderson's amendment. The course, he said, that Mr. Anderson had proposed was so obviously the right course to take that he was sure it would appeal to the Meeting.

THE PRESIDENT said that the amendment proposed seemed to meet them all, and he would only say, on behalf of the Council of the Institute, that they were so fully alive to the weight of the opinion of the Presidents of the Allied Societies who had been good enough to come to the meeting, that they would not certainly think of ignoring their opinion which they had taken the trouble to lay before them, and that they were quite prepared and willing to go into the whole matter. There was a great deal to be said on both sides of the proposal. The President then put as a substantive motion—viz. "That a committee, consisting of the Council of the Royal Institute of British Architects, and representatives of the Allied Societies, be appointed to consider the



principle of Registration, and to report thereon to a Special General Meeting."

On a show of hands apparently every hand was held up for the motion. But "On the contrary" being called, one hand was raised. The President declared the motion carried, with one dissident.

#### The Plumbers' Registration Bill.

The Plumbers' Registration Bill that passed the House of Lords in 1902, but failed, in the hands of a private member, to pass the House of Commons, has the full approval of the Local Government Board.

It provides for the constitution of a Council, composed of fourteen members, nominated by the following bodies:—Three by the Local Government Board; two by the Association of County Councils; two by the Association of Municipal Corporations; two by the National Association of Master Plumbers; two by the National Association of Operative Plumbers; one by the Royal Institute of British Architects; one by the City and Guilds of London Institute; one by the Worshipful Company of Plumbers, to frame a scheme for the registration of plumbers, such scheme to be approved by the Local Government Board and confirmed by Parliament.

The chief object of the Bill is to afford additional safeguards to the public health by encouraging the better training of plumbers, and by enabling persons employing plumbers to select, if they wish to do so, workmen who have given evidence of their qualification to carry out satisfactorily work in connection with sanitation and the public water supply.

The Bill does not contemplate any monopoly, and does not in any way interfere with the rights of non-registered plumbers. It does, however, prohibit such plumbers from representing themselves to be registered.

It is to be particularly noticed that any scheme framed by the Council is subject to the approval of the Local Government Board and confirmation by Parliament. Therefore any scheme to receive such approval and confirmation must necessarily ensure that all trade interests, as well as all public interests, be fully and fairly safeguarded.

#### The late William Pain [F.].

William Pain, who died on 19th of December, in his sixty-seventh year, was a member of the firm of Messrs. Lee & Pain, of 63, Lincoln's Inn Fields. He was elected Associate of the Institute in 1869 and Fellow in 1875. In conjunction with his partners he was largely employed as a rating surveyor, and in dealing with controversial cases arising out of compensation claims, rights to light and air. As surveyors his firm were concerned in the development and laying out of several landed properties in the suburbs of London, including estates at Clapham, Holloway, Isleworth, and Putney. Their architectural work comprised

many country houses, the building of Her Majesty's Opera House, various improvements at the Haymarket Theatre, St. John's Church, Putney, St. Stephen's Church, Wandsworth, and the Lodge of St. Katharine's Hospital in Regent's Park, several school buildings, &c. Mr. Pain served as member of the Council of the Royal Architectural Museum and Westminster School of Art in Tuf-ton Street, and played a leading part in the recent negotiations for the transfer of the museum buildings and the art collection to the Architectural Association.

#### Proposed Memorial to Mr. Penrose at Athens.

A movement is on foot to set up a memorial to Mr. Penrose at Athens, and a numerous and representative Committee has been formed to raise subscriptions and to give shape to the scheme. On the Committee are the Presidents of the Royal Academy and the Society of Antiquaries, the Master of Magdalene College, Cambridge, and others representative of art and archaeology in this country; Sir Edwin Egerton, British Minister at Athens, Dr. Dörpfeld, of the German Institute at Athens, Professor Goodwin, formerly Director of the American School, M. Homolle, Director of the French School, a representative of the R.I.B.A. (Mr. H. H. Statham), and representatives of the Hellenic Society and of the British School at Athens. A circular has been issued as follows:—

It is felt by many of Mr. Penrose's friends and colleagues that it would be appropriate to establish some memorial of him in Athens, with which city his name has been so closely and honourably connected for upwards of fifty years. It was as the exponent of the Principles of Athenian Architecture that, as long ago as 1851, Mr. Penrose won his first recognition, and the second edition of his famous Monograph, published by the Society of Dilettanti in 1888, still maintains its authority. Mr. Penrose was the first Director of the British School at Athens, he designed the original school building, and he served on the Managing Committee until his death. He was also called in more than once of late years by the Athenian authorities to advise as to the preservation of the Parthenon.

It would seem natural that any such memorial as suggested should be in connection with the British School, either in the form of a separate artistic memorial or of some addition to the buildings of the School which might be associated with his name.

It so happens that at the present moment the need of further accommodation for the School Library is becoming urgent. The existing Library in the Director's house is all but full, and the room is found to be too small for the open meetings of the School. The Managing Committee have therefore been considering the question of completing the original plan of the Students' Hostel by building a large room which shall serve the double purpose of a Library and a Hall for meetings. The Director is strongly of opinion that such a room would add greatly to the efficiency of the School. The books would then be all under one roof, as the special library collected by Mr. Finlay, and generously presented to the School by Mr. W. H. Cooke, is already housed in the Hostel. If this change were made, the space at present occupied by the Library would provide a welcome addition to the Director's quarters, which are at present somewhat cramped, especially in the matter of reception rooms.



It has been suggested to this Committee that if the proposed new Library building were taken as the main object of the Penrose Memorial Fund, the double purpose would be served of helping the School in which Mr. Penrose took so keen an interest, and of permanently associating his name with a building in constant use by successive generations of students. If funds allowed, a bust or portrait of Mr. Penrose might be placed in this building, and in any case a tablet with suitable inscription would mark its memorial character.

Plans have already been made for such a hall, with studies attached, and it is estimated that the building, with library fittings, and the proposed portrait, would cost about 1,200*l*. This sum will suffice to provide for good work at the usual cost of building operations in Athens, and the estimate is based upon figures obtained from the contractor who was employed, with very satisfactory results, in building the existing portion of the Hostel. Some part of the cost can be defrayed out of School funds, and the late Mrs. Sutherland Orr and Mrs. Matthews, sisters of the late Lord Leighton, being desirous to mark their brother's interest in the School by some appropriate gift, generously allowed the sum of 154*l*. 16*s*. 6*d*., which they had placed at the Hon. Treasurer's disposal, to be applied to this purpose. The Committee hope that this scheme will commend itself to those friends and admirers of Mr. Penrose who desire to see his name and work worthily commemorated in Athens, and that in this way the necessary funds may be provided to carry out this important object.

Subscriptions will be received and acknowledged by the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. George Macmillan, St. Martin's Street, London, W.C., or may be paid direct to the account of the "Penrose Memorial Fund" at the Covent Garden Branch of the London and County Banking Company, Limited, Henrietta Street, W.C.

#### Stained Glass at the Abbey.

Referring to the stained glass window in the south transept of Westminster Abbey mentioned in his lecture on Coloured Glass [*ante*, p. 63], Professor Aitchison writes that his criticism was not directed against the present window, but against that removed some time ago. It was, he believes, at the burial of Browning the poet that he was seated opposite the old windows of the south transept. The lecture was based on notes taken during a tour in England, France, and Italy some years ago for the purpose of studying stained glass; and in writing his lecture for the Academy last year, the Professor forgot that the window he objected to had been replaced by the present one.

## REVIEWS.

### BUILDING SUPERINTENDENCE.

*Building Superintendence. A Manual for Young Architects, Students, and Others interested in Building Operations as carried on at the Present Day. By T. M. Clark, Fellow of the American Institute of Architects. 15th ed. Price 12*s*. 6*d*. 8*s*. Lond. and New York: Macmillan & Co.*

What is a building superintendent? A fairly complete answer to the question is embodied in

an interesting American work on "Building Superintendence" by Mr. T. M. Clark, now revised, rewritten, and electrotyped in a fifteenth edition. At a very early stage in the perusal of this book we are led to speculate as to the standpoint from which the author treats his subject. The realistic dialogue which passes between the superintendent and the wily workmen on his job is written with a suggestion of personal experience. Such large calls, however, are made upon the credulity of the reader that one verges on the disappointing conviction that the author is too imaginative in his pictures of virtue triumphant over the trickery with which it is encompassed.

The building superintendent tells how he superintends the erection of a stone church and a wooden dwelling-house, giving many valuable hints on the best way to do almost everything connected with such buildings in America. In a later chapter we find model specifications and model forms of contract, the treatise closing with a description of steel-frame construction in commercial architecture—not from the clerk of works' point of view this time, but as seen from the inside of an architect's office. Touching the subject of model specifications, the author remarks upon the futility of producing a specification by altering and amending a printed draft. With this we must unreservedly agree. In practice there is much inducement to the procedure, especially when a number of buildings of the same class are erected year after year, calling, as it would seem, for almost identical specifications. No harm is done if the use of the printed draft stops short at the preambles of trades and descriptions of materials and workmanship, making all other matter serve only as reminders; but any attempt to juggle a printed form into an intelligible specification of the varying needs of the sanitary plumber's trade, for instance, is simply inviting trouble with the builder and vexation to all concerned. This is particularly the case if the work in execution has been varied intentionally or surreptitiously from the specification of doubtful meaning. The thought may occur here: Surely, if a specification is written by a competent hand, it matters not whether the start be made on a printed draft or on a clean sheet of paper. True, but herein is the danger: the very existence of the printed draft induces the mistake so often made, in giving the writing of the specification to an inexperienced assistant in the belief that he cannot go wrong with so much of the document already in printed form. The power to write a good specification is a rare gift; artistic ability or the most profound constructional knowledge does not predicate the power to write a specification that shall contain every detail necessary to the proper completion of a building, and that throughout shall have but one, an obvious meaning. A printed draft specification must ever be an anachronism, to use one is illogical, and it would seem as unreason-

able for a lawyer to create a testamentary trust on a sixpenny will form as for an architect to expect to produce a good specification on a printed draft. On the whole, the student or young practitioner will be well advised to take a strictly academic interest only in model specifications, whether English or American.

We are inclined to the opinion that the evident popularity of Mr. Clark's book is due to the excellence of the chapters dealing particularly with the duties of the clerk of works, but the author's anxiety to do as much good as possible prompts him to write for the instruction of a wider circle. He avers "that it is often necessary and always desirable that unprofessional persons should be able to direct the operations of mechanics and make contracts for various kinds of work." We must confess that we do not see the necessity, nor do we think that any author, however gifted, could write any one book and succeed in so large an undertaking.

So much progress is made in sanitary science in the course of two decades that it would appear wise to retain the writings thereon in some form more elastic than the permanency suggested by electrotyping, which the book has undergone. It is very quaint to read, in the chapter on wooden dwelling-houses, that "although water supply pipes are now generally planned to run outside the walls in positions where they can be easily reached, iron wastes and ventilation pipes are often best carried up in partitions." The modern clerk of works must read these statements in the light of their own antiquity; should, however, such principles creep, by inadvertence, into a modern specification he should know how to deal with them, pending another revision of this part of the book.

A useful addition to the work under review would be an epitome of the qualifications of a good clerk of works, with a code of ethics for general application. It is not enough that he be master of a trade, a careful observer of the quality of materials and workmanship, able to keep a full and accurate diary, taking notes and main dimensions of variations to be covered up soon after execution, judging rightly in the case of a contract schedule the work in extras to be done as day-work and that which should be properly measured. It is not enough that the clerk of works be clear in his views, exact in his instructions, blessed with a good memory, reading aright the specification and drawings, foreseeing difficulties involving delay if left untackled, and having all details of the work at his finger ends. No! All these qualifications will not make for success if the superintendent treat not the contractor and his foremen with a firm and dignified civility; he must be keenly alive to the weaknesses and susceptibilities of human nature, the while giving no just cause for complaints of vexatious interference with the progress

of the works; accepting not doubtful compliments nor hospitality in any form from forbidden sources, yet working on the best of terms with all honest men. On a building in course of erection the clerk of works is a powerful agent for good or ill; much interest, therefore, attaches to any book that deals with his onerous duties; and it is not surprising that with a very readable literary style, with clear printing on good paper, Mr. T. M. Clark's "Building Superintendence" is still making a strong claim to be read by students of the practical side of building.

SYDNEY B. BEALE.

#### BUILDING CONSTRUCTION TEXT-BOOK.

*Elementary Building Construction and Drawing for Scottish Students.* By Charles Gourlay, B.Sc. Price 6s. net. [Blackie & Son, Glasgow.]

As stated by the author in his preface, this book has been prepared in order to supply the Scottish student with an elementary work on building construction and drawing, the subject to which the drawings are specially applicable being the ordinary type of residential tenement common in Glasgow and throughout the greater part of Scotland.

The volume consists of twenty-four admirable plates, drawn for the most part to a large scale, illustrating every part of the building, and some fifty pages of descriptive matter, giving a concise and lucid description of the drawings, which embrace every trade. There is also one section dealing with and illustrating the various methods of bonding brickwork and masonry, and another showing the construction of an iron roof of useful design.

Although the author modestly confines himself to a type of building which hitherto has afforded little scope as a subject for architectural education, and only claims for the book that it may be of assistance to Scottish students, he has succeeded in producing a thoroughly practical elementary text-book which cannot fail to be of great service to the student, not only in enabling him to acquire such knowledge as will be required in constructing a tenement, but such as will be called for in building generally; and if a small glossary were attached which would make intelligible to mere Englishmen such barbaric technical terms as scunchions and dwangs, the book ought to prove very serviceable south of the Tweed likewise.

Sufficient information is given in the letterpress and drawings to enable the student to understand clearly how to construct the several parts of the building, without confusing him by multiplying examples teaching practically the same thing, and in this conciseness lies one of the chief merits.

The book is beautifully printed, and the illustrations, as before stated, are excellently drawn and thoroughly practical and complete, and should prove of great service not only to the embryo architect, but also to those who essay to teach him.

W. G. WILSON.

## ALLIED SOCIETIES.

## THE NORTHERN ASSOCIATION.

Inaugural Address, 44th Session, 11th Nov. 1903,

By J. WALTON TAYLOR [F.], *President*.

MR. VICE-PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN,—We are met to inaugurate the commencement of the 44th Session of the Northern Architectural Association, and I feel it a great honour to be privileged to address you for the first time from the Presidential Chair. I need scarcely say how much I rely upon the cordial support of every individual member, as well as the Council, to make my term of office conducive to the well-being and best interests of the Association.

The thought uppermost in our minds this evening will doubtless be the generous gift of £1,500 (in addition to £50 given a year or two ago) by our old friend Mr. William Glover, F.R.I.B.A., of "Meadowcroft," Windsor, formerly of Newcastle-on-Tyne, a past-President of this Association. Many will remember how, during his term of office as President, he not only encouraged the students by offering substantial prizes, but endeavoured to inspire them with enthusiasm for the profession he loved so well. Several who now hold positions of responsibility owe their success in a great measure to his kindly sympathy and support. Our indebtedness to Mr. Glover is now vastly increased by the deed of gift recently executed by him, and held by trustees for the benefit of the Association, the interest accruing from investments to be devoted to the Library, providing lectures or other educational facilities, and for instituting a Travelling Studentship with medals and prizes, which the Council have suggested should be named after the donor. Of this sum, £500 has been set apart by Mr. Glover as a nucleus for a permanent building of our own, and a representative committee has been appointed to further the scheme and obtain donations for its fulfilment. It is therefore fitting that, at our first meeting, we should give expression to our deep obligation to our good friend Mr. Glover, and publicly acknowledge his munificent gift. It is also sincerely to be hoped that the younger generation of architects will avail themselves of these advantages to the fullest extent, and endeavour to realise Mr. Glover's aspirations for the city of his adoption.

It has been hinted by some of the senior members that the main object for which the Association was formed, in 1858, has been somewhat lost sight of in the special efforts which have been made to interest and assist the younger members. Now let me remind you that "the Association was formed to promote union amongst its members, the elevation of the profession of

architecture, the establishment of uniformity of practice, and the general advancement of the art and science of architecture." I venture to think you will agree with me that, if an Association is to be successful, its activities must not be too much confined to one section only, but must be representative of all its various interests and agencies; and I also am of opinion that, even if more attention has been given to the younger members of late years than formerly, the result will prove the wisdom of the course taken. Those who have attended the outdoor excursions in summer and lectures in winter, must have been cheered by the large number of students and young men who were present. There has, however, of late years, been a falling off in the attendance of the pioneers. I know how difficult it is for those in active practice to spare time to keep so many engagements in this very busy age, whilst those who have borne the burden and heat of the day may reasonably expect to be permitted to enjoy their well-earned leisure; but I think we should bear in mind how much others may be helped by our presence and influence. I therefore appeal to my older brethren to support the Council and myself in our honest endeavour to further the interests of every department of our work, for the seniors as well as the students, and make the Association a greater means of usefulness than it has ever been before.

## EDUCATION OF ARCHITECTS.

This year the Council of the Royal Institute of British Architects made a departure which, to my mind, is of the greatest importance to our profession. At the invitation of the President (Mr. Aston Webb, R.A.) the Presidents of the Allied Societies were invited to attend a conference at the Institute rooms in London, to discuss the education of architects and the Registration Bill. Nine or ten of the Societies (including the Northern Architectural Association) were represented, and each provincial President was afforded an opportunity of stating what educational facilities were offered to students in his particular district, and also the views held by his Society with regard to registration. With regard to Northumberland and Durham, I described the classes in Architecture and Design at the College of Science conducted by Mr. R. P. S. Twizell, A.R.I.B.A., and the various classes held at the Rutherford College. The opportunities for study varied considerably; the larger centres, such as Glasgow, Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester, and Leeds, being well supplied with Technical and Art classes, similar to what obtains in Newcastle, but they are still far behind the King's College, London University, and the Architectural Association in London.

Mr. Henry T. Hare, F.R.I.B.A., the President of the Architectural Association, gave some very useful information regarding the working of that

institution. Mr. Hare has since then favoured me with some additional particulars, and as these are very interesting, I take the liberty of quoting a few extracts:—

The Architectural Association, London, was established in 1847, by architects in the interests of architectural education. Many of the leading members of the profession are included in its roll of membership, which now numbers over 1,500; of these some 230 are students attending the evening classes and studios. It has been evident that the Schools should be opened during the day as well as in the evening, and in October 1901 arrangements were made to establish a complete day course in addition to the evening classes, the latter being still continued as heretofore. Many architects are of opinion that pupillage should be preceded by some elementary training before entering an office, and a year or two spent at such a School as the Architectural Association would enable a student to acquire at a moderate cost the rudiments of his work before learning the practical details of his profession.

The first year's course includes the following subjects:—

The use of instruments and scales.

Freehand drawing.

Elementary perspective.

Orders of classic architecture.

Elements of the various styles of architecture.

Sketching and measuring details and portions of existing buildings.

Lectures on the History of Architecture, illustrated by visits to buildings and museums.

Elementary construction and materials, illustrated by visits to workshops and buildings in progress.

The fee for this is fifteen guineas per term, there being three terms in the year.

The second year's course is more advanced, and takes in the principles of architectural design and perspective. Students attend this advanced course three days in the week only, the remaining time being spent in an office as pupil. The fee for this course is £10 10s. a term.

As an outcome of this I am hopeful that at no very distant date a Chair for Architecture may be established at the Durham College of Science, Newcastle, which in a large Association such as ours ought to be self-supporting. This will be one of the first subjects to be considered by the Council during the coming Session.

#### REGISTRATION OF ARCHITECTS.

With regard to the registration of architects, the majority of the Allied Presidents were in favour of it, but thought the Institute was the proper body to take up the subject. They explained very fully the injustice experienced by country practitioners owing to unqualified men posing as architects who had never served their articles or had any special training. These views were most courteously received by the President (Mr. Webb) and other members of the R.I.B.A. Council who were present. They explained the great difficulty there was in reconciling the conflicting opinions of town and provincial members, and until the two sections were agreed it would be unwise to approach Parliament; but they promised the members of conference that the views expressed would be most carefully considered by

the Council. This opportunity for expression of opinion was felt to be most helpful, and a suggestion was made that the conference should become an annual fixture.

#### THE YEAR'S PROGRESS.

The past year has been one of great activity in the building world. In the northern district some of the large public buildings in Newcastle, notably the new infirmary (Mr. H. Percy Adams, of London, and Messrs. Newcombe and Newcombe, of Newcastle, joint architects) and the Laing Art Gallery (Messrs. Cackett and Burns Dick) are well advanced; whilst St. Chad's Church, Gateshead, and All Saints' Parish Hall, Newcastle (Messrs. Hicks and Charlewood), New Wesleyan Mission Hall in Westgate Hill, Newcastle (Messrs. Crouch and Butler, of Birmingham), and several Board Schools, have been completed. Other buildings, the outcome of private enterprise, such as the "Collingwood Buildings" and "Dial House," Northumberland Street (Messrs. Oliver, Leeson, and Wood); Star Buildings (Messrs. Newcombe and Newcombe) and Messrs. Sopwith's new premises, both in Northumberland Street (Messrs. Cackett and Burns Dick); the Caledonian Insurance Company's offices in Pilgrim Street (Mr. S. D. Robins); Mr. Moffett's buildings in Collingwood Street (Mr. J. Walton Taylor), are finished; whilst the new offices for the Pearl Assurance Company at the corner of Northumberland Street and New Bridge Street (Mr. William Hope); "Emmerson Chambers" in Blakett Street (Mr. B. F. Simpson); the Consett Iron Company's new offices in Pilgrim Street (Mr. C. E. Oliver); Messrs. Deuchar's new premises at the corner of Grey Street and Hood Street (Messrs. W. H. Knowles, of Newcastle, and W. and T. Milburn, of Sunderland, joint architects); Mr. Milburn's new offices, Dean Street, and The Side (Messrs. Oliver, Leeson, and Wood, and Marshall and Tweedy, joint architects), are making rapid progress.

There is every indication of a falling off in the erection of large undertakings, whilst speculative building is practically at a standstill. The outlook for architects is, therefore, not nearly so bright as it has been of late years. We must, however, not take a dismal view of things, but hope that the slackness is but temporary.

#### RECONSTRUCTION OF NORTHERN TOWNS.

Of late, frequent reference has been made in the local press to the great changes which are taking place in the appearance of the large northern towns; the old landmarks are being removed, and in their places palatial buildings erected in the principal thoroughfares. It is pleasing to note that in nearly every instance these have been designed by members of our Association, and I think both in design and general adaptability they



will compare favourably with similar structures in other large provincial cities. I am afraid, however, that strangers passing through Newcastle by train see little else than the tops of grimy chimneys, and so obtain a very dismal and incorrect impression of the architecture of our city.

It is interesting to compare the old maps of Newcastle, prepared by Mr. Oliver (father of the late Mr. Thomas Oliver, F.R.I.B.A.), with the most recent surveys. We then realise what a vast development has taken place not only in the centre of the city but notably in the suburbs.

Pleasure gardens and country walks of the olden time are now covered with street after street of houses, so that the neighbouring villages are practically part of Newcastle. Should the extension of the city boundaries be carried out by the incorporation of the urban districts of Benwell and Fenham, Gosforth and Walker, and the parishes of Longbenton, Kenton, and Fawdon, the municipal area will be increased by 11,624 acres, and make the total area of Newcastle city 16,979 acres. The increase of population, taken from the returns of last census, will be 56,424, and with the proposed extension Newcastle will then possess 278,665 inhabitants.

The greatest transition in Newcastle took place about seventy years ago, when the late Mr. Grainger secured Anderson Place and grounds, the Nuns' Gardens and fields, and had the ground cleared and laid out into wide thoroughfares, which entirely transformed the appearance of the city and diverted the trend of business. I have in my possession a plan and isometrical view, prepared by Mr. T. Sopwith in 1834, which shows the original scheme, which I have brought for your inspection. I also quote from the plan a description of the proposed new streets and market:—

1. The principal street commences at the head of Dean Street and stretches northward to Blackett Street, which it enters in front of St. James's Chapel. This street will be 80 feet wide, the houses will be built with architectural elevations richly ornamented, and the whole of polished stone, and the carriageway will be macadamised.

2. Another leading street commences near the head of the principal street, where it joins Blackett Street, and extends into the Bigg Market where the Turk's Head Yard now is. This street will be 70 feet wide, and, like those of the principal street, the houses will be of polished stone.

3. A third street commences in Pilgrim Street a little below the entrance to Anderson Place, is continued across the principal street and terminates in the street No. 2. This street, like the preceding, will be 70 feet wide, and the houses also of polished stone.

4, 5, and 6. Three other streets, each 50 feet wide, and with houses of a character similar to those in the streets already described, commence in Pilgrim Street, one below Anderson Place and two above, and will terminate in the principal street.

7. A seventh street commences in the centre of the south side of Eldon Square, and extends into Newgate Street at a point between the Newcastle and Carlisle Railway Company's office and Mr. Joseph Clark's shop.

The new market will occupy an area of nearly two acres,

bounded to the eastward by the street No. 2, and to the westward by the street No. 7. The north and south boundaries are formed by two streets, each 50 feet wide (8 and 9), which commence in the Bigg Market Street No. 2 and terminate in that which commences in the centre of Eldon Square No. 7. Its distance from the present market will not exceed 170 yards.

The market will contain 278 shops, exclusive of the vegetable and poultry stalls, the whole under well-lighted and well-ventilated roofs, and with eight commodious entrances from the principal streets already described.

You will notice how closely the first ideas have been adhered to. These consisted of a street, 80 feet wide, in continuation of Dean Street, parallel with Pilgrim Street (then the main street), which he named New Dean Street (now Grey Street); another new street, 70 feet wide (Grainger Street), connected Bigg Market with Blackett Street at the top of New Dean Street. Another street, 50 feet wide (Clayton Street), was projected to connect Newgate Street and Blackett Street, and ran parallel with Grainger Street. Various cross streets are shown at right angles to the main thoroughfares, giving readiness of access. These are known as Hood Street, Market Street, and Shakespeare Street, connecting New Dean Street and Pilgrim Street, and Nelson and Nun Street uniting Grainger Street with Clayton Street. To enable Mr. Grainger to carry out these proposals it was necessary to cut through the old market, situate between Pilgrim Street and the Cloth Market. In lieu of this he suggested an excellent site for the new markets, facing into Grainger Street, and extending right back to Clayton Street, with the new cross streets, Nun Street and Nelson Street, 50 feet wide, on each side. The old theatre, which stood in Drury Lane, was intended to be rebuilt on the west side of New Dean Street (at present occupied by the Turk's Head Hotel); but eventually the site was changed to the opposite side of the street, a proposed cross street was omitted, and the entire space between Market Street and Shakespeare Street was utilised for buildings. In the formation of Grainger Street it was found necessary to cut through the Nag's Head and Turk's Head public-houses, and he provided a site for the new Turk's Head in Grainger Street (now occupied by the Grainger Hotel); but eventually the site at first intended for the Theatre Royal, in New Dean Street, was adopted for this building. You will notice that at this date Grainger Street West was not contemplated, and the only means of communication with Neville Street and the New Grainger Street was by means of St. John's Lane. This at a later date was cut through, and the present handsome approach from the Central Station formed, which has taken the place of Pilgrim Street in the olden times, and later of Grey Street, and become the principal business thoroughfare of the city. Blackett Street and Eldon Square were already in existence, and no



doubt the erection of these dwellings had suggested to Mr. Grainger the idea for further development.

Although a great deal of the credit for the initiation of this vast improvement is undoubtedly due to Mr. Richard Grainger and his legal adviser Mr. John Clayton, yet we should not overlook the important part which our first President, Mr. John Dobson, Messrs. John and Benjamin Green, Mr. John Wardle, Mr. George Walker, and others, took in the designing of the handsome street frontages which are the admiration of all visitors to the northern metropolis. I think it is very much to be regretted there has been so little recognition of these pioneers of architecture, and something should be done by our Association to keep their names green in the memory of younger Newcastle. Whether it will be possible in the near future to realise Mr. Glover's cherished wish of securing a permanent home, it is difficult to say. If that were done, it would be very desirable to have an exhibition of the works carried out by them, and thus form a museum of art similar to the Royal Institute of British Architects; but, failing that, it may perhaps be within the range of possibility for our Vice-President (Mr. J. T. Cackett) and the Treasurer (Mr. R. Burns Dick) to secure from the Library Committee of the Corporation a corner in the New Laing Art Gallery, which they recently designed, to be known as the Architectural Section.

#### DEVELOPMENT OF THE SUBURBS.

Although we may justly be proud of our principal streets, I am afraid the same cannot be said of our northern suburbs. Compare these with Birmingham, Nottingham, Sheffield, Bristol, Cardiff, and other commercial centres, and we realise at once how inferior they are. Architects are often censured for this state of things, and even held responsible for the class of houses which spring up in all directions on the outskirts of all large northern towns. I think it is time we should clear ourselves of this unpleasant stigma. Are we really to blame? If we inquire how it is that in some of the large industrial towns of Great Britain and Ireland there are such fine suburbs, wide streets with avenues of trees, attractive detached houses standing in the midst of well-planted gardens, I think we shall find that in every case the original landowner had the foresight to lay out the roads, plant trees, and was prepared to wait until the demand arose for sites. He laid down stringent building conditions, and restricted the number and class of houses to be erected in a particular district, the result being that the residents were secured against any infringement in the event of the land changing hands. As a contrast to this, see what is taking place in our beautiful suburb of Jesmond!

Where once stood noble mansions with well-timbered grounds, we now have rows of tenement houses or small terrace houses with the inevitable back street, the trees cut down and the aspect of the whole district deteriorated. It is a well-known fact that small sites will yield a larger price and bring in a quicker return than if laid out as villas. Instead of the entire district being in the hands of one public-spirited owner, it has been bought up in sections by syndicates, who compete against each other for the largest return for their investment. It may be said that Newcastle is strictly a commercial and manufacturing town; but what about Birmingham with its beautiful suburb of Edgbaston, or Bristol with Clifton? or, better still, take Cardiff, which is now reaping the benefit of the shrewd, far-seeing late Marquis of Bute, who laid out wide avenues, reserved sites for municipal buildings and parks, whilst the town was in its infancy, and now we see a model borough, with the charming marine watering-place of Penarth within a few minutes' railway journey laid out on similar lines. I cannot help thinking that our public bodies should do something to prevent these self-centred vested interests, and formulate a well-thought-out scheme for the development of all new districts.

Mr. Frank W. Rich, F.R.I.B.A., Past President, in his inaugural address of November 1898, alluded to the small percentage of domestic buildings designed by architects. He very ably defended our profession from the uncomplimentary opinions sometimes expressed with regard to our street architecture, and clearly showed that we were in many instances not responsible for the erection of the ordinary class of dwellings. But where architects were engaged he advocated thoroughness in plan and simplicity of design. With these remarks I thoroughly agree, and would strongly recommend our younger men to study carefully his excellent advice.

#### THE HOUSING PROBLEM.

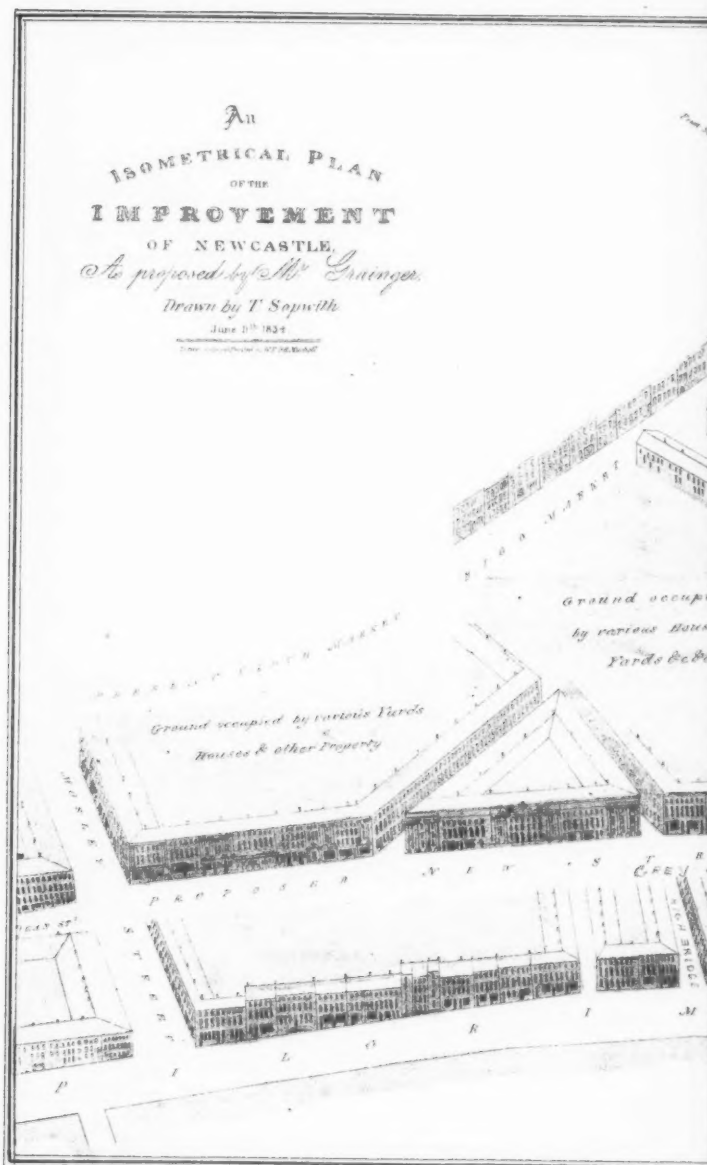
One of the most prominent questions in all large centres of population is the housing problem. In the *County Monthly* for March 1903 an article appeared under the title of *The Warrens of the Poor*, being one of a series descriptive of the slumdom of the great provincial cities. The subject chosen for that month is *Vivid Pictures from Newcastle*, wherein the writer describes in graphic language, and illustrates with special photographs and sketches, some of the dismal tenement properties which are known to many of us in Dog Bank, The Close, the lower part of Pilgrim Street, Sandgate, &c. We cannot shut our eyes to the fact that many of the dwellings in these old courts and chares are unfit for habitation; but unless they are closed by the city authorities, a certain class of people will continue to live in them, not that

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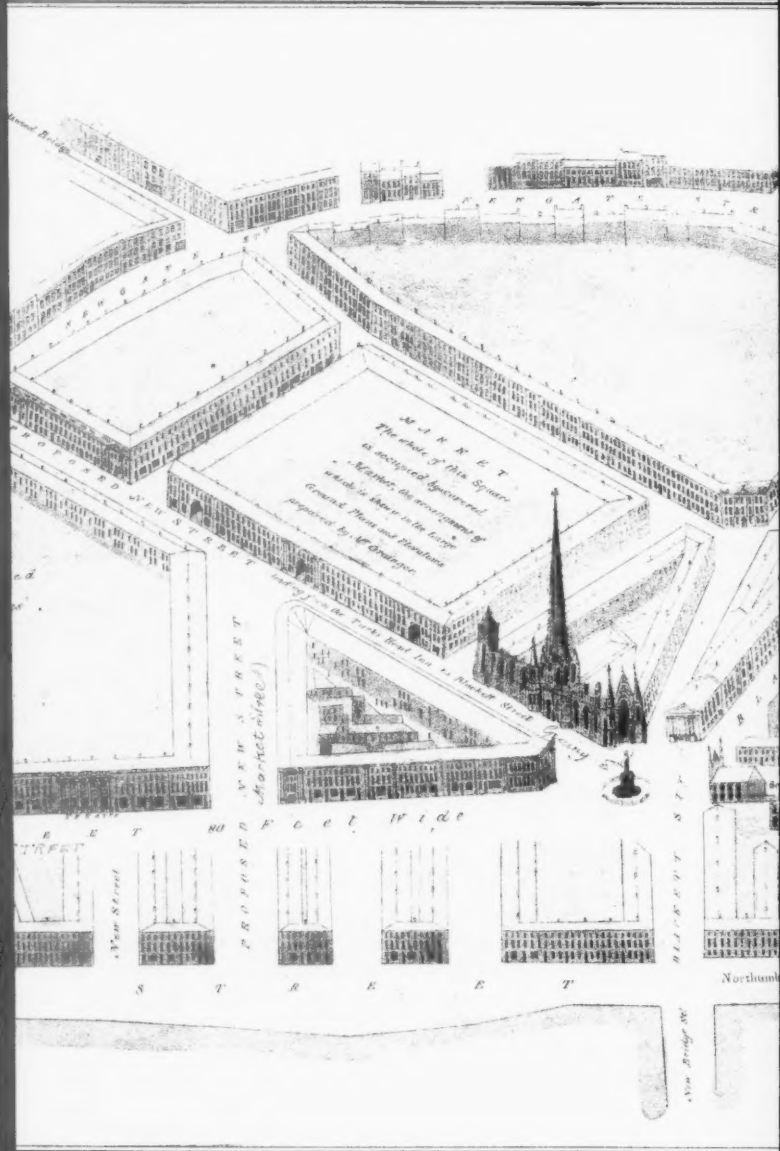
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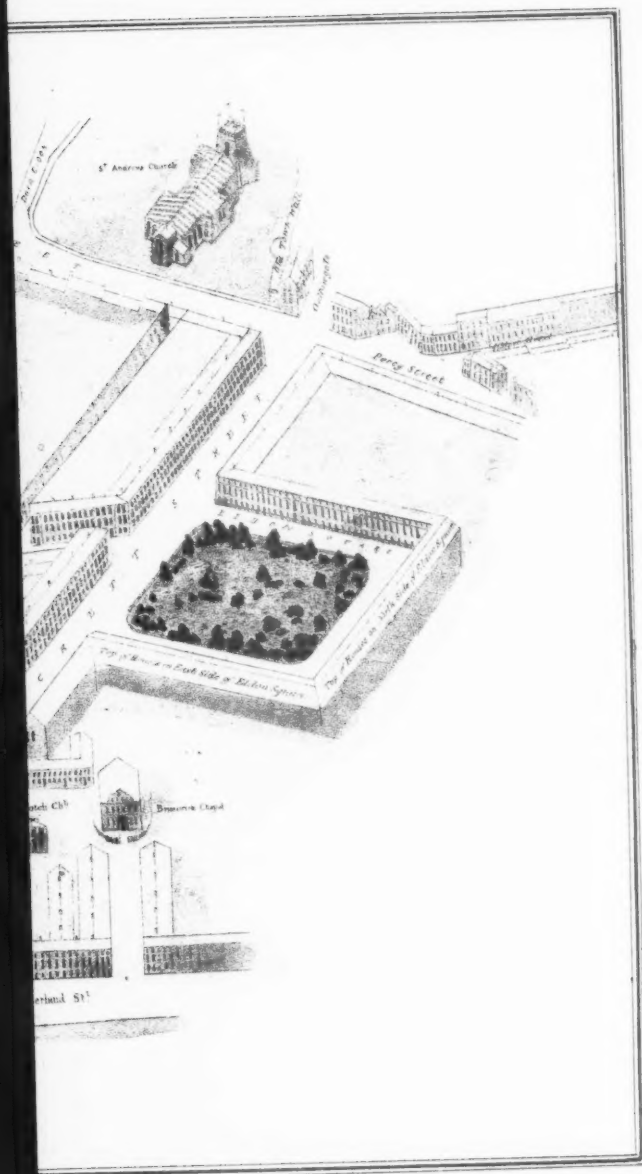
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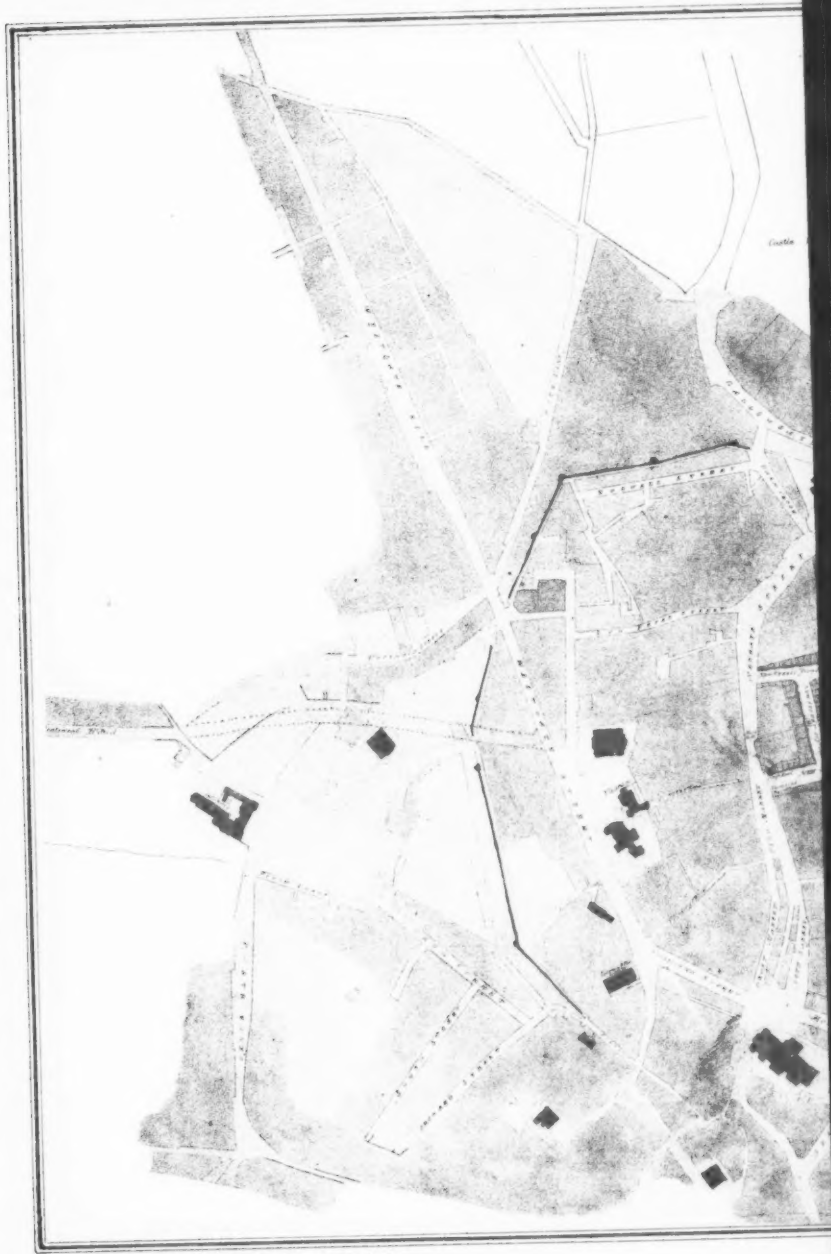












C. F. KELL & SON LITH R. FURNIVAL ST HOLBORN E.C.



SERIES.







### Description of the Streets Market

1. The principal Street commences at the head of Lane Street runs northward to Church Street which is distant in point of 12 rods long to the north of the 8 feet wide the Lane will be widened to 16 feet and 12 feet wide on each side of the Lane and the whole of the Lane is to be paved with stone and the Lane will be 12 feet wide at the head of the Lane and the Lane will be 12 feet wide at the head of the Lane.
  2. A second Street commences at the head of the principal Street above it runs Northward and extends to the 12 feet wide at the head of the Lane Street and the Lane will be 12 feet wide and the Lane will be 12 feet wide at the head of the Lane.
  3. A third Street commences on the Lane Street and extends to the Lane Street and the Lane will be 12 feet wide and the Lane will be 12 feet wide at the head of the Lane.
  4. A fourth Street commences on the Lane Street and extends to the Lane Street and the Lane will be 12 feet wide and the Lane will be 12 feet wide at the head of the Lane.
  5. A fifth Street commences on the Lane Street and extends to the Lane Street and the Lane will be 12 feet wide and the Lane will be 12 feet wide at the head of the Lane.
  6. A sixth Street commences on the Lane Street and extends to the Lane Street and the Lane will be 12 feet wide and the Lane will be 12 feet wide at the head of the Lane.
  7. A seventh Street commences on the Lane Street and extends to the Lane Street and the Lane will be 12 feet wide and the Lane will be 12 feet wide at the head of the Lane.
- The new Market will consist of three squares. The Market is to be bounded by the Lane Street and to the southward by the Lane Street. The Market is to be bounded by the Lane Street and to the southward by the Lane Street. The Market is to be bounded by the Lane Street and to the southward by the Lane Street.





they are compelled by poverty to do so, but because they become indifferent to their surroundings, and so herd together. Even if these were closed tomorrow, it is very doubtful whether this class of people would not in many instances remove into another locality which is at present respectable, and so in a short time it would become as bad as those from which they were displaced. This subject has been taken up at different times by philanthropists, budding politicians, faddists, and social reformers; but, so far as I am aware, no society of architects has ever dealt with it in a practical way. I think we may claim to know something of the difficulties, and as we have "no axe to grind," but seek rather to beautify and ennoble the towns and cities in which we live by the exercise of our profession, our attention should be directed to it during the coming session, and this is my only apology for introducing it here. Some of the social reformers have advocated costly schemes for pulling down large areas of slum property, and building in their places palatial blocks of dwellings at the public expense; others have visions of transporting the dwellers of slumland into the suburbs, and forming a colony there, on the model of Bourneville near Birmingham, Saltaire in Yorkshire, or Port Sunlight. Let us look a moment at each of these proposals.

#### INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS.

I think we may take it for granted that people of this class do not like the restraint and order inseparable from buildings of this kind. It is imperative that there should be a resident manager who will not only look after the interests of the owners, but see that order is maintained. I am afraid the ordinary inhabitant of the slum does not favour this arrangement, and would rather prefer to live in unsavoury surroundings and have freedom. Then, as to the cost. I think we shall agree that high buildings built with fire-proof materials cannot be erected to conform with the local by-laws and yield a fair return on the capital expended as an investment.

#### THE REMOVAL INTO THE SUBURBS.

The average workman likes to be within easy reach of his daily labour, and, all things being equal, would prefer to be where he could go home to dinner. The model villages referred to, especially Bourneville and Port Sunlight, are the centres of vast industries where large works have been erected by the employers, who secured sufficient land to provide houses with garden plots. The residents, therefore, only require to be provided with public halls, reading rooms, bowling greens, and other means of recreation, combined with shops for the purchase of the necessaries of life, to make them a happy, contented community. We know very well how difficult it is to persuade workmen to leave the towns to work on buildings

in country villages, even in summer amidst beautiful scenery and pleasant surroundings, and when they do consent to go they are constantly longing to get back into the well-lighted streets and variety of town life. In this district, where the principal industries are engineering and ship-building, the works cannot be removed, and the land is too valuable (even if possible) for houses of this class, and it must also be kept in mind that the workmen often have to change from one yard to another to secure regular employment, which they could not so conveniently do if located in the suburbs.

#### WHAT IS THE SOLUTION?

In my opinion the Corporation of Newcastle are acting wisely in erecting two-storied dwellings in tenements on the line of the electric tram route, so that those who wish to live at a cheap rent can do so, and readily remove from one shipyard or works to another; besides, the facilities for travelling in workmen's cars are so great that there should not be any difficulty in the men getting quickly to their work in any weather. In fact, the quick and frequent electric tram and train service promises to be the solution to a great extent of the housing problem. For those who will not remove from the slums I would suggest the course adopted by the Borough of Camberwell, as reported in the *Newcastle Daily Chronicle* of 16th April, 1903:

Instead of pulling down the tenements in slum areas and turning out the tenants to find habitations how and where they can, Camberwell has selected the Hollington Street and Sultan Street area lying off Camberwell Road, and containing the population of over 4,000, and is gradually transforming the housing accommodation of the whole. The Borough Council buys the houses not to pull them down, but to improve and adapt them. The purchases are made privately, at reasonable prices, and not at the inflated values customary in the case of compulsory sales. The houses are then transformed into healthy tenements, in some cases without even turning the occupiers out; and not only is the standard of the house accommodation being raised over the whole neighbourhood, but rents are kept low. The experiment has been a striking success, and the scheme being entirely self-supporting has not cost the ratepayers a penny.

#### PUBLIC OFFICIALS UNDERTAKING PRIVATE WORK.

I now wish to touch briefly upon a matter which leads us upon somewhat delicate ground; that is, the question of officials in Corporation and District Council offices doing architectural work. As this is a subject which affects us very directly and materially, and is likely to affect us more in the future than it has already done, I think it is well to direct attention to it, so that the necessary steps may be taken to bring pressure to bear upon those in authority.

It seems manifestly unfair that we architects should be deprived of an opportunity of earning a livelihood by those already in receipt of regular

salaries, towards which we, as ratepayers, contribute. These gentlemen have no office rent to pay, no stationery to provide; and yet, in some instances, they are allowed to undertake private work. It is a further injustice that the same persons are permitted to report upon their own plans, which is surely a state of affairs entirely out of keeping with things as they ought to be in an elective and governing public body. These are matters which we as an Association will do well to consider carefully, and I leave them with confidence in your hands.

In conclusion I wish to put myself right with my hearers regarding some of the subjects touched upon in this address. I do not for a moment forget that my remarks as President should be representative of the whole of the members comprised within the area of the Northern Architectural Association which includes the counties of Northumberland and Durham. We have also 216 on the membership roll, and I believe I am correct in saying this is the largest number since its inception. If more frequent reference has been made to Newcastle than other towns, I trust my country brethren will not think their interests have been overlooked, as my remarks are intended to apply to the district generally. Newcastle is the home of the Association, is admitted to be the metropolis of the North; my thoughts therefore have naturally dwelt more upon what concerns its past and future development. Some of the other matters referred to may appear of a somewhat personal character; but many of us feel they are of a pressing and vital importance to the well-being of our noble profession, and I should be failing in my duty as your President if I were to miss this opportunity of calling attention to them, with the hope that permanent good may result.

#### ROYAL INSTITUTE OF IRELAND.

The Annual General Meeting of the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland was held at the Institute rooms, Lincoln Place, Dublin, on the 18th December. The President, Mr. George C. Ashlin [*F.*] addressed the Meeting, and made some observations on the question of Registration. He remarked that when they came to consider the adoption of an obligatory examination for their members in the future, they felt that there was little chance of this being generally submitted to unless it was accompanied by State recognition, as in other professions. On this point, as well as on the general question of the urgency of registration, their views were shared by the Ulster Society of Architects, and therefore, as far as the profession was represented in Ireland, there was practically no difference of opinion. The pronouncement on the subject by the President of the Royal

Institute of British Architects at the opening meeting in London might be taken as embodying everything that could be said against it. His first argument was that Parliament would never grant compulsory registration as long as there is a considerable body of opinion strongly against it, including its leading members. The force of this objection would mainly depend on the numbers on each side, as their legislators could hardly refuse a measure based on the principle already recognised in the case of other professions, if it was supported by a substantial majority of the practising members. The next objection put forward was that it would be a difficult and serious task to decide who should be admitted and who should be excluded; and further, that a good deal of disability as well as ability might be registered in the first instance. This was, of course, true; but precisely the same difficulty existed in the case of other professions, and it had been successfully overcome; moreover, any injurious effect would be exceptional, and would disappear after a few years. In the meantime it would be surely of advantage to separate in even a rough and ready manner, in the words of the President of the Royal Institute of British Architects, "the sheep from the goats." The next objection was that speculative builders, auctioneers, &c., would still continue to design buildings, and that some of them might qualify themselves under a Government diploma and thus make the condition worse than it is. Referring to the first point, this could not, of course, be avoided, but the distinction between a qualified and an unqualified practitioner would remain for the guidance of the public and local representative bodies. With regard to the second point, the necessary training and study to obtain the diploma must result in some benefit to Architecture in the abstract. As to the argument that art should be free and that registration would tend to shackle it, it was hard to understand how this would result. The profession would be open to everybody who qualified himself, and certainly the possession of heaven-born gifts as an artist would not be considered a disability in a candidate. As to saying that painters, sculptors, and engineers did not seek Government diplomas and still their professions were more allied to Architecture than law and medicine: with regard to the first two professions there appeared to him no analogy at all, their works told for themselves from the start and required no hall-mark, whereas the architect ought to have many qualifications which were not so easily appreciated. The last argument which he would refer to was that the Institute Examination offers sufficient inducement to make the lazy ones work, and that, therefore, the diploma is not essential for that purpose. He held exactly the contrary opinion, and it was this consideration that convinced him more than anything else of the urgency of the measure. He assumed, of

course, that the Royal Institute of British Architects would take the leading part in formulating the education scheme as well as in superintending its development, and that the Government action would be as limited as it was in the case of other protective professions.

The Report of the Council for the year 1903 was then read as follows:—

GENTLEMEN,—We have pleasure in laying our Annual Report before you. The year that has almost passed has not been marked by any very great activity in the building trade—possibly the result of the “backwash” of the late war. Your Council, however, have not been idle, and have had under consideration several questions of great professional importance. The revision of the by-laws—a matter which occupied your Professional Practice Committee for many months—was completed late last session, and these by-laws were printed and circulated to our members. We are glad to state that they have been found very complete and satisfactory. As, however, in all finite concerns, perfection is impossible, it has been found advisable to introduce two variations. One of these is very important, and should not be passed over in our report without notice. We refer to the variation in the by-law which governs the election of the Council, and enacts that two members of Council shall retire annually and be ineligible for re-election. The intention of such a by-law is evident. The other alteration, that which reduces the number necessary to form a quorum at a general meeting from ten to seven, was adopted for obvious reasons.

The question of the revision of the Conditions of Contract now generally in use has occupied the attention of the Council and the Professional Practice Committee at frequent meetings during the year. Our members may express surprise that this subject should still remain unsettled—should still crop up each spring as our hardy annual and brave the winters unblasted; but any such surprise can only be expressed by those who have not given the whole question careful study in all its complexities and who do not recognise the vast divergence of opinion held by the members of our profession on the various questions in connection with it. We earnestly hope, however, that some definite decision may be arrived at next session, and that this very difficult question may be settled in a satisfactory and equitable way to all concerned.

At an early stage in the session a deputation was received by the Council from the Architectural Association of Ireland, who, feeling that their effort to improve the educational advantages open to students of architecture in Dublin, by lectures, by classes, and by prizes, lacked the stimulus of a definite aim, proposed that the Institute should enact that for the future an examination should be held by the Institute, in

general education and professional efficiency, and that the passing of such examination should be made a condition precedent to election. This proposal, it will be seen, introduces a radical change in our constitution, and requires the creation of an examining body with considerable machinery for the exercising of its functions. The Council, feeling how much the profession owe to the excellent efforts of the Architectural Association and the educational advantages it offers, have given this question most careful attention. The principle of Qualifying Examinations was adopted at a general meeting held on the 18th of June 1903. Such a radical change as this proposal suggests would, however, have to obtain the consent of the Royal Institute of British Architects, with which body we are allied, and it is not at all evident that they will permit us independently to hold such qualifying examinations. In considering the subject, it must be remembered that, when we have made the passing of an examination a necessary qualification for membership, the letters M.R.I.A.I. after our names will imply something quite different from that which they now do, and that the right to use these letters is tantamount to a diploma of efficiency.

The attention of the Council has been directed to several unsatisfactory conditions of competition issued to the profession during the year by public bodies, and have found it necessary to urge their members to refrain from taking part in these. It is to be regretted that the promoters of such competitions should not recognise what is due to members of an honourable profession, and should issue conditions framed in such an inadequate way as to exclude all self-respecting architects from competing.

A very successful *Conversazione* was held in the rooms of the Royal Hibernian Academy, and we were graciously honoured by the presence of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant on the occasion. It is hoped that, if vigorously supported by the members, this may become an annual function.

An event claiming record was the most interesting lecture delivered before our members by Mr. Percy Fitzgerald on the work of Robert Adam.

The usual exhibition of the Prize Drawings kindly lent by the Royal Institute of British Architects, was held this year in conjunction with the *Conversazione*, a variation in procedure which we venture to think was acceptable.

The prize presented by our Institute for competition among Members of the Architectural Association of Ireland duly took place, and the assessor, Mr. Batchelor, awarded the prize to the competitor who adopted the up-to-date motto “Sunprint.” On the envelope being opened by the President at our Council Meeting, the name disclosed was that of Mr. Alfred Livesay, of Kildare, whom we heartily congratulate.

The social event of the year was the visit to Dublin of their Most Gracious Majesties the King and Queen. A loyal address was presented by the Council, and received a gracious reply.

Our Honorary Officers, in accordance with the by-laws, having filled their terms of office, retired in November. These posts have been filled by the election of Mr. R. Caulfeild Orpen as Honorary Secretary, and of Mr. Charles H. Ashworth as Honorary Treasurer. The Council would like to place on record their entire appreciation of the splendid service both the out-going officers, Mr. Kaye Parry and Mr. Owen, have rendered to the interests of the Institute. Our roll of membership now reaches a total of 103, and we are glad to be able to state that our Honorary Treasurer reports that our financial state is satisfactory.

We record with regret the death of Mr. Frederick A. Butler, who was a Member of our Institute for twenty years. Although Mr. Butler never actively took part in the affairs of the Institute, we feel that his unimpeachable professional record, and his kindly, unassuming manner, brought honour and respect to the calling he faithfully followed.

The following are the officers and Council for the ensuing year:—*President*, Mr. Geo. C. Ashlin [F.], R.H.A.; *Hon. Sec.*, Mr. R. Caulfeild Orpen; *Hon. Treas.*, Mr. Charles H. Ashworth; *Council*, Sir Thomas Drew, P.R.H.A. [F.], Messrs. W. M. Mitchell [F.], W. Kaye Parry [F.], A. E. Murray [F.], C. A. Owen [F.], G. P. Sheridan [A.], Frederick Batchelor [F.], F. G. Hicks, J. Rawson Carroll [F.], W. J. Gilliland, C. J. MacCarthy, J. J. McDonnell.

## MINUTES. V.

At the Fifth General Meeting (Business) of the Session 1903-04, held Monday 4th January 1904, at 8 p.m.—*Present*: Mr. Aston Webb, R.A., *President*, in the Chair, 74 Fellows (including 25 members of the Council), 82 Associates (including 3 members of the Council), and 2 Hon. Associates: the Minutes of the meeting held 14th December 1903 [p. 116] were taken as read and signed as correct.

The following Associates attending for the first time since their election were formally admitted and signed the register—viz. Edgar George Cusson Down (Cardiff), Tom Simpson, and Augustus Edward Hughes.

The Hon. Secretary announced the decease of William Pain, elected *Associate* 1869, *Fellow* 1875, and Walter Simpson McClelland, formerly of Jannagar, Bombay, elected *Fellow* 1891. It was resolved that a message of condolence be sent to the families of the deceased members.

The Hon. Secretary announced the receipt of books presented to the Library, and a vote of thanks was passed to the donors.

The Secretary announced that by a Resolution of the Council under By-law 20 Mr. John Barlow, of Sydney, N.S.W., had ceased to be a member of the Royal Institute.

The following candidates for membership were elected by show of hands under By-law 9:—

### AS FELLOWS (5).

PERCY MORLEY HORDER.

ALEXANDER PAUL MACALISTER [A. 1895], Cambridge.

THOMAS RIDLEY MILBURN [A. 1887], Sunderland.

WILLIAM MILBURN, Sunderland.

ARTHUR EDWARD PERKINS.

### AS HONORARY ASSOCIATE.

FRANK BERNARD DICKSEE, R.A.

### AS HON. CORRESPONDING MEMBER.

LE COMTE ROBERT DE LASTEYRIE, Member of the Institut de France.

Notices being on the agenda from Messrs. G. A. T. Middleton [A.], Butler Wilson [F.], President of the Leeds and Yorkshire Architectural Society; J. W. Beaumont [F.], President of the Manchester Society of Architects; John Woolfall [F.], President of the Liverpool Architectural Society; Edgar G. C. Down [A.], on behalf of the Cardiff, South Wales, and Monmouthshire Architects' Society; and Herbert Davis [F.], on behalf of the York Architectural Society, that they would bring forward the following motions at the meeting—viz.

1. That this Institute is in favour of the general principle of the compulsory examination and registration of architects;
2. That a Committee be appointed to consider what steps should be taken to give effect to this principle, and to report thereon to a Special General Meeting before the opening of Parliament;
3. To nominate this Committee,—

Mr. G. A. T. Middleton formally moved the first Resolution as above, and Mr. Butler Wilson moved the following as an amendment—viz. That a committee, consisting of the Council of the Royal Institute of British Architects and representatives of the Allied Societies, be appointed to consider what steps should be taken to give effect to the principle of registration, and to report thereon to a Special General Meeting. The amendment was seconded by Mr. G. C. Ashlin, R.H.A., President of the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland, and supported by Mr. J. W. Beaumont.

Mr. J. Maevicar Anderson moved as an amendment, That a committee, consisting of the Council of the Royal Institute of British Architects, representatives of the Royal Institute of British Architects, and representatives of the Allied Societies, be appointed to consider the principle of registration, and to report thereon to a Special General Meeting. This amendment was accepted by Mr. Butler Wilson, and seconded by Mr. H. T. Hare [F.].

The following Resolution was then put by the President, and carried, against one dissentient:—

RESOLVED, That a committee, consisting of the Council of the Royal Institute of British Architects, and representatives of the Allied Societies, be appointed to consider the principle of registration, and to report thereon to a Special General Meeting.

The proceedings then closed, and the Meeting separated at 9 p.m.

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